



A PROCLAMATION

*For Seizing the Horses and Arms of Papists, and Persons above the Degree of Commons,
not Qualified according to the Act of Parliament.*



WILLIAM by the Grace of GOD, King of Great-Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith : To
Macers of Our Privy Council, Messengers at Arms, Our Sheriffs in that part, conjunctly
and severally, specially constitute, Greeting : Forasmuch as by the Sixth Act of the Fourth Session of this Our current
Parliament, *It is Statute and Ordained, that all Persons who shall not swear the Oath of Allegiance, and subscribe the same, with
the Assurance to Us, shall not be allowed to keep any Horses above an hundred Merks Price, nor any sort of Arms more than a
Walking-Sword, certifying such as should be found to have Horses and Arms contrary to that Provision, either in their own or in the
keeping of others, that both the Owner and Keeper should incur the Penalty of an thousand Merks, the one half to the Informer, and the other to
Us.* And by the foresaid Act, the Lords of Our Privy Council are Authorized and Impowered to take such further effectual Methods for
Disarming these Persons, and seizing of their Horses above the foresaid Value, as they should judge necessary. And We Considering how
requisite and needful it is at this time, that all Papists, and Heretors, and others, above the degree of Commons within this Kingdom, who
have not sworn the Oath of Allegiance, and subscribed the same, with the Assurance to Us, should be Disarmed, and their Horses above
the Price foresaid seized and imployed for Our Use, to oppose and withstand the Invasion now threatned from France. And for the better
securing the Peace and Quiet of this Our Kingdom from all Disturbance and Commotion, that may be moved or made within the same, in
case any such Forraign Invasion should happen, have therefore thought fit, with Advice of the Lords of Our Privy Council, to Require and
Command ; likeas, with Advice foresaid, We hereby peremptorly Require and Command the Sheriffs of the several Shires of this King-
dom, Stewarts of Stewartries, Baillies of Regalities, and their respective Deputs, and the Magistrats of Burghs within their several Jurisdi-
ctions, immediatly after Publication hereof, to pass through every Paroch within their respective Bounds, and call before them all the Pa-
pists, and the Heretors and others above the degree of Commons within the same, who have not taken, or will not take the Oath of Alle-
giance, and subscribe, the same with the Assurance to Us ; and Require and Command them upon Oath to Declare, what Horses they had since the
first of January last, or presently have above the Price of an Hundred Merks, and in whose Custody they are, and what Arms more than a
Walking-Sword, they since the day foresaid had, or presently have belonging to them, and immediatly to deliver into the
Custody and Keeping of the said Sheriff, or their Deputs, or other Magistrats *respective* foresaid, before whom they shall Depone the
saids Horses and Arms in their Custody, to be kept by the said Sheriffs and other Magistrats foresaid, in sure Custody, untill
they make report of the Number thereof to the Lords of Our Privy Council, which they are hereby Required to do, betwixt and
the Second day of April next for all upon this side of Tay, and for all the rest of this Kingdom betwixt and the Fifth Day of
May next, under the pain of Five Hundred Merks Scots ; and where either the saids Heretors, and others foresaid,
do not Compear and Depone, or do not instantly deliver the saids Horses and Arms, acknowledged by their Oath to belong
to them. We with Advice foresaid, Require and Command the Sheriffs and other Magistrats *respective* above named, within
their several Jurisdictions, to seize upon the Horses and Arms belonging to the saids Persons, and take the same into their Cu-
stody and Keeping, where-ever they can be found, and make report thereof betwixt and the day foresaid, under the Pains above-set-down.
and for the more effectual Execution of the Premises, We with Advice foresaid, Impower and Authorize any of the Magistrats *respective*
above-named, to call for, and we hereby Require and Ordain the Commander in Chief of Our Forces, to grant suf-
ficient Parties of Our Troops whenever they shall be required, to go along with, and be assisting to the said respective Magistrats, in
seizing upon, and searching for the saids Horses and Arms to be delivered to, and detained by the saids respective Magistrats, and reported to
Our Privy Council, in manner above-mentioned ; And We with Advice foresaid, Require and Command the saids respective Magistrats, in
the Report to be made by them to Our Privy Council, and likewise the Officers of Our Troops that shall be imployed for their Assistance,
to Declare upon Oath, that they have not restored or given back any Horses above the price of one hundred Merks, or Arms more than a
Walking-Sword to any of the foresaid persons not qualified according to Law, or others belonging to them, but that they have effectually Seized,
and Reported all the Horses above the price foresaid, and Arms more than the said Walking-Sword belonging to any of the saids unqualified He-
retors, and others foresaid within their respective Bounds, conform to the foresaid Act of Parliament, and the Orders here set down, and
how soon soever the said Report shall be made ; We with Advice of the Lords of Our Privy Council, will send the necessary Orders to the
Sheriffs and other Magistrats *respective* above-named, how to dispose upon the saids Horses and Arms to the best Advantage for Our Ser-
vice, which they are punctually to observe and obey, as they will be answerable. **OUR WILL IS HEREOFRE,** and we Charge you
strictly and Command, that incontinent thir Our Letters seen, ye pass to the Mercat-Cross of Edinburgh, and remanent Mercat-Crosses of
the Head-Burghs of the several Shires and Stewartries within this Kingdom, and therein Our Name and Authority, by open Proclamation,
make Intimation hereof that none pretend Ignorance, and Ordains these presents to be Printed.

Given under Our Signet at Edinburgh, the thirteenth day of March, and of Our Reign the seventh year 1696.

*Per Actum Dominorum Secreti Concilii.
GILB. ELIOT, Cls. Sti. Concilii.*

God Save the King